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C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 002348

SIPDIS

OFFICIAL INFORMAL

DEPT FOR SA/INS FROM A/DCM

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12-26-12

TAGS: [AMGT](#) [CE](#) [MV](#) [LTTE](#)

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL NUMBER 179 (12-26-02)

Classified by A/DCM Long Lee. Reasons 1.5 (b, d)

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- SL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

DEMINING

11. (C) We are really, really, really worried about your e-mail re the apparent postponement in the DoD-sponsored mil-to-mil demining program. (Note: We're not blaming the messenger; we appreciate your successful effort to quickly find out what's going on.) We can appreciate that important things are happening in the world that demand resources. That said, we think that a near-term continuance in our demining programs here is crucial as we try to underscore our strong support for the Sri Lankan peace process via on-the-ground, "quick impact"-type programs. As you know, the QRDF was quite a hit, but it wrapped up in late October. We were counting on the mil-to-mil program to continue the momentum very early this year. On the global stage, these programs do not consume very much by way of resources in any case -- but they go a long way here. We would really appreciate it if SA/INS would work closely with PM to ensure that we have something up-and-running in Sri Lanka as soon as feasible. We do not want the months to drain away on this. Again, thanks for your help on this. (POL)

SL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

12. (SBU) Reviewing DRL's latest e-mail re "V-2" of the Sri Lankan human rights report draft, we just noticed that our key para re peace process events and their impact on human rights has been axed from the introduction. (Note: Thanks for passing "V-2" to us. We would not have seen it without your help.) Rebecca Schwalbach of DRL goes on to note that she will talk to her director about the para after Jan. 1. We want to make sure that DRL understands how important this para is to the intro. Can you speak to Schwalbach's boss on this very early next week and get back to us if you think there is a problem? We are willing to take this issue higher, if necessary. We do not want to find out that some deadline has passed and we have no time to reclama. Thanks once again for all of your excellent work on this. (POL)

WILLS